

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7709

BILL NUMBER: HB 1511

DATE PREPARED: Apr 3, 2001

BILL AMENDED: Apr 2, 2001

SUBJECT: Dangerous exotic animals.

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**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that a person must have a permit or be exempted to possess certain dangerous exotic animals. The bill allows a conservation officer to inspect a facility that houses a dangerous exotic animal during reasonable hours to ensure that the animal is being safely maintained and the animal is being kept in healthy conditions. It requires a person who possesses a dangerous exotic animal to meet certain requirements to qualify for a dangerous exotic animal permit. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must be notified when a dangerous exotic animal is moved out of state, ownership is transferred, or the animal dies. A local law enforcement officer and the DNR must be notified if a dangerous exotic animal escapes from the facility in which it is housed. This bill establishes penalties. This bill also provides for the transition from existing permits to dangerous exotic animal permits.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The proposal will result in additional administrative expenses for the DNR. Additional staff time will be required to enforce the provisions of this bill. However, the DNR does not anticipate having to hire additional staff in order to fulfill the requirements of the proposal.

Explanation of State Revenues: A person who possesses an exotic animal without a license commits a Class A infraction. A person who violates other provisions of this bill commits a Class C infraction. If additional court cases occur, revenue to the State General Fund may increase if infraction judgments and court fees are collected. The maximum judgment for a Class A infraction is \$10,000. The maximum judgment for a Class C infraction is \$500. Revenues from infraction are deposited in the State General Fund. If court actions are filed and a judgment is entered, a court fee of \$70 would be assessed. 70% of the court fee would be deposited in the State General Fund if the case is filed in a court of record or 55% if the case is filed in a city or town court.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Local law enforcement (or a veterinarian) must certify the death of

an exotic animal. Local law enforcement must also be notified if an exotic animal has escaped. These provisions will increase administrative expenses for local law enforcement. However, the overall impact is not expected to be significant.

Explanation of Local Revenues: If additional court actions are filed and a judgment is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: (1) The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$70 court fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 20% of the court fee would be deposited in the county general fund and 25% would be deposited in the city or town general fund. (2) A \$3 fee would be assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county law enforcement continuing education fund. (3) A \$2 jury fee is assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county user fee fund to supplement the compensation of jury members.

State Agencies Affected: Department of Natural Resources

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: Andy Cullen, Executive Assistant, Office of the Director, Department of Natural Resources (317) 233-6398.